

# Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic recruiting call

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Yorke Peninsula's Saltwater Classic, the biennial festival celebrating great traditions of boating and our maritime heritage, has been built on dedicated volunteer input since its inception in 2003.

Over the years it has grown in stature to become a major tourism showpiece of the region beckoning people from across South Australia and beyond to enjoy the natural features, history and coastal culture of Yorke Peninsula.

The Saltwater Classic in Stansbury and Port Vincent in April this year attracted thousands of participants to enjoy on-water and foreshore festivities, with independent market research showing the two-day event injected almost \$1.3 million into the local tourism and hospitality economy.

Principal sponsorship support from the South Australian Tourism Commission has been secured to plan, present and promote the next edition of the Saltwater Classic in 2026, but new volunteers and ideas are being sought to help drive the event into the future.

Outgoing organising committee chairman, Doug Le Feuvre, said volunteering was the foundation of the event's success with passionate individuals devoting time and skills to present different dynamics to the boating and foreshore celebrations.

"However, some of our volunteers have committed their passion and energy to the event for more than two decades and, to be frank, they are running out of steam," he said.

"What volunteer members of the organising committee have achieved over the years is quite remarkable measured by regional and State tourism awards, growing participation in the event and greater public awareness of the seaside beauty and natural diversity of our region.

"Through excellent governance we have a solid financial base to plan and present the event into the future with assurance of ongoing funding from the South Australian Tourism Commission, our progress committees in Stansbury and Port Vincent along with support from local businesses.

"But we are calling for further volunteers in our towns and region to join the organising team for 2026 to build on past achievements with broader ideas and enthusiasm to create exciting new dynamics to the Saltwater Classic.

“It is an opportunity to contribute to an event that is not just about the wonders of wooden and classic boating, but one that also integrates our artistic and cultural diversity, regional craft and produce and elements of our great agricultural heritage.

“In doing so, people can take the Saltwater Classic and its associated attractions to new levels of visitor enjoyment in all aspects of what Yorke Peninsula has to offer.”

Yorke Peninsula’s Regional Tourism Manager, Jess Greatwich, said: “The Saltwater Classic is a hero event of our region. This curated biennial celebration plays a critical role in growing the visitor economy by driving dispersal throughout the southern Yorke Peninsula, showcasing and protecting our maritime heritage, and increasing guest expenditure.

“With strong support from Local and State Government, as well as ongoing engagement with Yorke Peninsula Tourism, now is the time for a new generation of custodians to get involved and carry the event into the future.

“Yorke Peninsula Tourism offers a range of support and programs for event organisers and managers to ensure they have the tools and expertise to deliver high quality, successful events.

“These resources will continue to be available to the organising committee of the Saltwater Classic. We look forward to working with a refreshed and rejuvenated volunteer group to continue the Saltwater Classic’s long history of successful events.”

For further information on Yorke Peninsula’s Saltwater Classic go to the website [ypsaltwaterclassic.org.au](http://ypsaltwaterclassic.org.au)

People interested in joining the organising committee, or helping in any way, should contact Doug Le Feuvre on 0417 559 046 or email [ypsaltwaterclassic@gmail.com](mailto:ypsaltwaterclassic@gmail.com)